

The Caledonian Mercury.

Edinburgh, Monday, June 22, 1730.

From a Weekly Journal, June 13.

IN reading the History of England, I observe, that great Mischiefs have been brought upon this Nation, by the Corruption and Weakness of some Parliaments. I need not notice that of Forty-One, which subverted the Constitution itself: These Men, under a Notion of restoring Liberty, set up a Multitude of Tyrants; and these Tyrants were at last forc'd to submit to One. This one Tyrant did what he pleas'd; he quarrell'd with Spain, and allied with France, contrary to the Inclinations of the People, and the Interest of the Nation; yet all was approv'd by the Parliament, at least, by an Assembly who call'd themselves so; nay, they established a standing Army for him; and all the strange Measures taken Abroad, as well as the Oppressions at Home, were approv'd by Parliament.

It may be imagin'd, the People were sufficiently out of Humour with such a Parliament; therefore, when another came to be elect'd, they made Choice of Persons of different Characters, who soon began to inquire into past Abuses, and the crying Grievances of the People; which alarming Oliver, he resolv'd to dissolve 'em: And Fleetwood representing to him, how ill it look'd to dissolve a Parliament that was just about many popular Actions; he answer'd, *By the Living God, I will dissolve them.* Which he did, without suffering 'em to do one good Act. Afterwards, speaking of his two Parliaments, he said in Mirth, *This Parliament has done just nothing, and the other nothing just.* With such Contempt did he treat those Fellows who had done all his dirty Work for him, when they could serve him no longer.

Historians observe Oliver committed one Mistake in choosing his Parliament; for, having still what Money he pleas'd, had he brib'd the little Boroughs to return his own Members, he might have been as safe, and the People as miserable as ever, and boasted of the great Harmony betwixt him and his Parliament, or represented their Votes to Foreign Courts, as a Proof of the Affections of the People; but he fancied he could over-awe the Members, and that Bribing was expensive. But had he lived a Year or two, he would have found to his Cost, that a free Parliament and an arbitrary Administration are most inconsistent. This naturally leads us to consider the Condition

of Great Britain, if ever it should happen that her Parliaments shall be influenced by Minister or Ministers. Whether this Influence proceeds from Terror or Corruption, it is indifferent to the People; only the latter will endure longest: Since in no History we see, that ever People recovered their Liberties who were kept in Chains by the Corruption of their Chiefs, tho' many Nations have thrown off Slavery who were kept under by Terror and Force.

In England, we are safe while our Representatives remain untainted; but when they traffick away their Votes for Titles, Bribes, Pensions, or Scrapes of a Ribbon, (*vilia servitutis pretia*) we may pretend to despise the French as we please; but they will pity us.

Nothing is so unnatural in a free Country, as to see the same Persons Representatives of the People and Servants of the Crown at one Time; since a Man cannot be a free Agent, nor act according to the Dictates of Reason or Conscience, if 5 or 600 l. a year lie at Stake at every Vote he gives. After the Revolution, when Taxes began to be rais'd, and consequently, Employments to increase, several worthy Members, thinking if these Employments were distributed among the Members of the House of Commons, it might prove a dangerous Rock for the Liberty of the Subject, spoke against it. Among the rest, Sir Charles Sedley, on the Bill of Ways and Means, us'd the following Words:

"Mr. Speaker, When we begin to consider, we shall find it is convenient to lessen the Officers of the Court and State, in point of Profit, and in point of Number too. We have 9 Commissioners of Excise, 7 of the Admiralty, 3 of the Post-office, 6 of the Customs, &c. I see not why half, or even less, may not do as well: But when I reflect, that most of 'em are Members of the House, my Wonder is over; for tho' it is disputed whether many Heads be better than one, it is certain that many Votes are better than one. Many of our Gentlemen have two Places besides their Seat in Parliament. Let us then apply these Fees and Salaries to the War, and unanimously set our Shoulders to the Burden, and the Charge will lie easy on the People. We are call'd together by the King, and set up by the People; and ought to regard their Interests only." The

The Number of Employments in general are increased much since that Time, and a greater Number of these Gentlemen have Seats in Parliament; Some compute them at 210. So that did we not live in an Age, when *Virtue* and a publick Spirit are become so fashionable, when none are chosen to Employments but such as are conspicuous for *Virtue*, *Honour*, and *Love for their Country*, we might be afraid of so formidable a Body; especially, if once Men once should come to think, that it would be a silly Thing to loose 1000 Pounds a-year for pronouncing a wrong *Monosyllable*.

'But tho' we be now easy as to these Fears, since we have a Minister, whose *clean Hands* and *uncorrupt Heart* we were well acquainted with before he was advanc'd to his present Height of Power; yet, how know we that we shall be always so happy? May not others get into the Direction of Affairs, with *dirty Hands* and an *ignorant Head*, who may sink the *publick Money* into their *own Pocket*, and *blunder* the Nation into Broils and Difficulties; and what Remedy could a Nation have, if a Majority of their Representatives should be obedient to the *Treasury*? Might not the most hated and unpopular Man living, when the publick Cry was loudest against him, insolently say, *Why don't you impeach me?*

Machiavel says, that *absolute Government* would be the best in the World, could we be sure of a Succession of vertuous Princes; but as the Foolish and Vicious have their Turns, he thinks the People must be mad, who put it in the Power of a Prince to in-croach on them, only because they hoped he would not use it. The same may be said as to *Ministers*.

If Numbers of Men in Office in Parliament is at any Time dangerous, the People ought to look about 'em before they feel the bad Effects; and perhaps no Conjunction could be so proper for this as *Now*, seeing under the present popular and wise Administration, there is no Law which could make the Subject easy on this Head but would pass.

The nearer we bring our Constitution to the original Institution, the more content and happy the People will be; and if Parliaments should come again to be *Annual*, as design'd by our Ancestors, it would put an end to *Bribery* in Elections, more effectually than any Law that can be fram'd for that Purpose. Then Elections would come so fast about, that the *Trading Members* could not get the Interest of their Money this way; and finding they could reap no Benefit by getting themselves returned into Parliament, they would probably apply to cheat their Country some other way, which would bring them in a quicker Profit, and by the

Grace of God, in the End, they might Hang'd.

Wye's Letter Verbatim, London, June 16.

Since our last arrived a Mail from France, two from Holland, and three from Flanders.

WE still remain in a doubtful and uncertain State as to Peace or War. The Letters from Vienna by the Holland Mail which arrived last Night, make no Mention of their having approved of the new Project inserted in our former for accommodating the Affairs in Italy. However they tell us, that the Court was ready to enter into Negotiations on the Foot proposed by the Allies of Seville, and that the Hopes of Peace increased daily: But at the same Time they add, that the Generals were to go to Italy, and where the Imperial Troops continued to arrive, the Number of which is said to amount already to 30000 Men.

On the other Hand we are informed by some Accounts from Leghorn of the 3d Inst. N. S. that it was currently reported there, that the Difference between Spain and the Emperor was accommodated, and that Don Carlos with 6000 Soldiers should be peaceably admitted into Tuscany, the Emperor being first paid the Charge he has been at in raising and marching his Troops, 4000 of which are said to be arrived in the State of Massa.

Mean time the Right Honourable the Lord Walgrave is daily expected in Town from Vienna, and we go on with our Preparations, the *Ruby*, the *London* and some other Ships being taken into the Transport Service; and they have begun to put on board them the Bedding for the Regiments that are to assist in Don Carlos's Expedition, and a great Number of Cartoons or Water Bottles are likewise getting ready to be put on board the said Transports for the Use of the Soldiers.

People are much puzzled in their Thoughts to know how Affairs will at last terminate, which upon concluding the Treaty of Seville, 'twas expected would have been in a general Pacification. But this Disappointment, on which some People take the Liberty to make their Reflections, is to be attributed to the Obstinacy of the Emperor in not complying with such a small Variation of the Quadruple Alliance, as the Introduction of 6000 Spanish instead of Neutral Troops. The Letters from Milan by the above Mail speak of reinforcing the Garrison of Leghorn with 1000 Imperialists: And those from Paris advise, that at the Issue of a long Conference which was held there the 12th Inst.

by

Ministers of the Allies of Seville, the is Offer some Millions which Spain is to
 Alphonse Spinola, General in Chief of his Catho- Arrear to the Emperor, and to guaranty to his
 lick Majesty's Forces, took his Leave of the Court Imperial Majesty all his Dominions. Nevertheless
 to return to Spain. From whence 'tis wrote, that the military Preparations are carrying on with as
 they are busy hiring in the Sea-ports of that King- much Vigour as ever, throughout all the Emperor's
 dom, Ships for transporting Troops to Italy. Dominions: We continue sending Troops to Italy,
 and Prince Eugene has ordered 3 travelling Coa-
 ches to be got ready, and is making other Prepara-
 tions for a Journey; but whether he goes for Italy
 as Vicar-General, or takes a Turn to the Nether-
 lands, we know not. General Philippi, who goes
 to Italy with the other Generals, is to call at Tu-
 rin, with a Commission from the Emperor. 500
 Men of the Imperial Regiment of Braume, most or
 all the Officers of which Regiment are Irishmen, are
 ordered into Leghorn.

Many of the Persons accused of Sodomy in Hol-
 land are come over hither in Passage Boats for their
 Safety: And we learn by private Letters and Pas-
 sengers, that besides the 28 that were lately exe-
 cuted there, 15 more are to hang'd next Thursday,
 and a Dutch Parson to be burnt alive at Rotterdam.
 'Tis added, that there were great Tumults in Hol-
 land, on Account that some of the greatest of them
 as to Fortune had not been publicly executed.
 The Estates of those who are fled, as well as those
 executed, besides what pays their Debts, we hear
 are all forfeited to the Publick. The Dover Man
 of War is arrived at Portsmouth, having on board
 the English Captives lately redeemed in Barbary.

A Brief was read last Saturday in most of the
 Churches of this City, for the late dreadful Fire
 at Copenhagen, which is to be collected from
 House to House.

Yesterday the South Sea Company, whose Ships
 are sailed for the Spanish West Indies, except their
 annual ships, entered at the Custom-house, 6836
 Pound Weight of wrought Silk, 7250 Perpers,
 8040 Stuffs, and 1600 Bays for Portobello and Car-
 tagena.

From the Evening Posts, June 16.

Hague, June 20. They write from Berlin, that
 they are grieved to hear that the Differences be-
 tween the Kings of G. Britain and Prussia are far
 from being reconcil'd; and that the Intermarriages
 so ardently wish'd are in a manner broke off, so as
 not to be brought on again till the Conclusion of a
 Peace, when his Prussian Majesty being less necessa-
 ry, may perhaps abate of his Pretensions.

They tell us from Hanover, that the Regency ha-
 ving received 2 Expresses, with the News of the D.
 of Mecklenburg's Arrival at Swerin, immediately
 dispatched an Express to London, to acquaint his
 Britannick Majesty with it.

Sultan Esref is arrived at Constantinople, and
 solicites the Porte to stand by him against Prince
 Thomas, who is powerfully supported by the Great
 Mogul. The Grand Signor continues very ill.

We are told 12000 Saxons are to march from
 the Camp at Muhlberg for the Emperor's Service,
 as soon as the Diversions and Exercises are over.

Vienna, June 10. If the last Proposals of the Se-
 ville Allies are such as is given out, we may soon
 expect a Peace; especially, if it be true, that there

Granada, May 26. New Orders have been sent
 to the Sea Ports to get every Thing ready for the
 Imbarkation of the Troops and the sailing of the
 Fleet; for which Purpose, a Bridge of Boats is
 ready at Barcelona.

Hamburg, June 16. The Admiralty at Peters-
 burg have received Orders to equip nine Men of
 War, 9 Fregates and several Galleys, on board
 which some Land Forces are to embark.

Amsterdam, June 20. Some particular Letters
 mention, that an Accommodation is as good as
 concluded, and that in Consequence thereof, Don
 Carlos is to go and reside at Milan with a Swiss
 Guard, till the Demise of the Dukes of Tuscany
 and Parma.

Rome, June 3. There are now 54 Cardinals in the
 Conclave. A new Party is form'd for Cardinal Da-
 via, supported by the Party of France. A Jesuit
 has lately delivered a Letter to the Sacred Col-
 lege from the Court of Portugal; and it being re-
 ported that M. Bich is dead, we soon expect to
 hear of an Accommodation with that Kingdom.

Cologne, June 13. The raising Imperial Recruits
 goes on here with good Success, and the Officers
 have already got 200 more for the Regiment of Co-
 ningseck in the Netherlands, which are to go thi-
 ther immediately.

Naples, May 23. Our Chamber of Accounts have
 contracted for Provisions for Porto Ercole in Tus-
 cany; and we are preparing to send great Guns
 thither, with Carriages to supply such as want.

London, June 16. The Report that William For-
 tescue was to be made a Baron of the Exchequer in
 Scotland, is entirely groundless.

The Marquis of Blandford, Grandson of the late
 Duke of Marlborough, is arrived here with his La-
 dy from beyond Seas.

S. & Stock 103, 1 half.

From



From the Flying Post.

Dublin, June 9. This Day a Proclamation was issued by the Lord Mayor of this City, commanding that no Persons do assemble To-morrow in the Streets or any where else, particularly at Steven's Green, or wear White Roses or other Marks of Distinction, is being the Pretender's Birth-day.

Glasgow, June 15. Last Week we had Accounts from Port Glasgow, That one Mr. Whitman, Clerk to Collector Walker, after having din'd and Topp'd as he used to do, with his Landlady, told her, that he behoved to have some stout Fellows to sit up the Night with him; for, that Night, at such an Hour and Minute, he was either to die or be carried off. After the Men were got, he fell into divers Fits of Horror, thrusting himself into Corners, &c. and died accordingly at the very Hour and Minute predicted.

Edinburgh, June 22. At a General Meeting of the most Honourable Society for Improving in AGRICULTURE, held at Hope-Park the 13th Instant, there was presented to the Society a Letter, subscribed *A Lover of his Country*, with a Book intituled, *An Essay on Ways and Means for Inclosing, Fallowing, Planting, &c. Scotland; and that in 16 Years at farthest.* When the Honourable Members recommended to their Preses, to write a Letter of Thanks to that anonymous Author, to be left at a Coffee house; as desir'd, signifying their unanimous Approbation of the Author's Design. And as they have already done their Country so signal Services, both by Advice and Example, it is not questioned but they will on this Occasion exert themselves in forwarding and following out this laudable Scheme to the best Advantage. In the mean time their Honours recommended several of the Proposals therein, as of singular Use to such as already have, or are setting out on our Land Improvements; hoping, that our Members of the Legislature will in their respective Capacities use their Endeavours to make the same effectual, as so highly conducive to the Prosperity and Happiness of this Country.

Tomorrow betwixt 11 & 12, his Majesty's Plate is to be Run for in the Sands of Leith.

His Excellency Lt. General Wade is expected in Town Tomorrow Night.

Tomorrow (the 19th Day of the Moon) 'tis High Water at Leith at 9 o' Clock, 27 Minutes. Wednesday, at 6. 15 Min. Thursday, at 7. 3 Min.

ADVERTISEMENTS

By Order of the Honourable Commissioners of His Majesty's Customs:

There are to be exposed to Sale on Friday the Third Day of July next, at the Customhouse of Leith, betwixt the Hours of Twelve and One, several Parcels of Brandy, Geneva, Arrack, Tea, Coffee-Berries and Tobacco, &c. lately seiz'd and condemn'd in the Court of Exchequer. The Particulars are to be seen at the Customhouse; and the Goods to be seen in the Forenoon before the Sale.

||| The BLEACHING-COMPANY at DALGHURN will continue to take in Cloth till the Twenty-fifth Day of June Inst: After which Time, no more Cloth will be taken in for this Season. The Prices of Bleaching continue at Five Pence, and Six Pence, as formerly advertised. The Cloth to be delivered in to JAMES MACGHEE, Merchant, at his Shop in the Head of the West-bow, Edinburgh, or to LAURENCE SCOT, Merchant in Glasgow, at his House in the Tron-gate.

||| That upon Thursday the 25th of June Inst. at the Bank-Office, betwixt the Hours of 3 & 4 in the Afternoon, there will be exposed to Sale by way of publick Roup, (by Warrant of a Decree of Forthcoming, obtain'd before the Lords of Council and Session) THREE SHARES in the BANK OF SCOTLAND. The Conditions of the Roup are to be seen at the Bank Office, in the Hands of DAVID SPENCE, the Company's Secretary.

||| A BLEACHING-FIELD, with convenient Work-houses and all other Materials being now completely finish'd at Cameron on Loch Lowmond, by DONALD GOVAN Merchant in Glasgow, carried on by David Bleachers well skilled in that Art: The said Mr. GOVAN is now laying down Cloth; the Prices of Bleaching as follows, viz. All Cloth Yard-broad, at or under one Shilling per Yard, when whitened, 3 d. From 1 sh. to 2 sh. 4 d. From 2 sh. to 4 sh. 5 d. From 4 sh. 6 d. and so in proportion for Cloth of a greater and less Breadth. Therefore, any who incline to have their Cloth at the said Field, will please give it in to William Crooks Merchant in Edinburgh his Shop a little above the Court of guard, the South-side of the Street, till Whituesday; and after that, at his House in my Lord Cailehill's close, 2d Close above the Old Bank. The Owners are desir'd to sew in their Names in the one End, and the Number of Yards in the other End, with Thread, and not with Silk, to prevent Mistakes in the Return. 'Tis desir'd no Piece exceed 40 Yards in Length. The Field is so large that every One's Cloth will be laid down as it comes. Receipts will be given, which must be returned at Delivery of the Cloth.

Just now come Home,

300 Large, fresh and Superfine LIMONS and BITTER ORANGE, true CHINA (or Sweet) ORANGES, to be Sold at ARCHIBALD SHELLS's Warehouse in Leith, the first Loft above the Weigh house; or at his Shop at the Head and Orange near the Cross, South-side of the Street, Edinburgh; all Better and Cheaper Fruits than can be had any where else in Town. Where you may be serv'd with all Sorts of Baking Apples, Sugars of all Kinds, Walnuts, Raisins, &c. Orange-Wine, Spaw-Water, and generally all Sorts of Grocery-Ware.

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